

# Blue Economy CRC PhD Scholars Program

## Conditions of Award

### Background

Developing a workforce for the future Blue Economy is an integral part of the Blue Economy CRC. The Blue Economy CRC's Education & Training program provides an unprecedented scale of research opportunities, with fully- and co- funded Higher Degree by Research (HDR) PhD scholarships across its five research programs. The Blue Economy CRC is an ideal work environment for talented graduates to conduct commercially viable research to tackle the technical challenges facing our blue economy industries.

Students will be part of a professional research team solving real industry problems, with access to world-class research facilities. PhD projects will be linked to industry-focused research topics and as part of their candidacy, students will have the opportunity to undertake placements with relevant organisations, including government, private and university organisations in Australia and overseas. Research projects will require support from at least one Blue Economy CRC industry participant.

Students and their enrolling, supervising or advising institutions or entities:

- agree to these Conditions of Award on acceptance of an offer by Blue Economy CRC-Co Ltd (BE CRC-Co); and
- acknowledge that these Conditions of Award are subject to: (i) BE CRC-Co's Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia in respect of grant funding for the Blue Economy CRC; (ii) the Participants Agreement between BE CRC-Co and the Participants in the Blue Economy CRC; and (iii) any Blue Economy CRC project agreement applicable to the student's research project.

BE CRC-Co may update these Conditions of Award from time to time by notice to students and enrolling universities.

### Areas of Research

PhD projects must be aligned to one of the Blue Economy CRC's five Research Programs:

- Program 1: Offshore Engineering and Technology
- Program 2: Seafood and Marine Products
- Program 3: Offshore Renewable Energy Systems
- Program 4: Environment and Ecosystems
- Program 5: Sustainable Offshore Developments

### Locations to undertake a PhD in the Blue Economy CRC

The Blue Economy CRC's PhD students will primarily be enrolled in a PhD with one of the following Universities, unless otherwise approved by the Blue Economy CRC:

- Griffith University
- Macquarie University
- University of Tasmania
- University of Queensland
- University of Western Australia
- Auckland University of Technology

Conjoint arrangements with international partner Universities and/or research organisations can be considered.

## Conditions of the Award of Scholarship

### General Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a Blue Economy CRC Postgraduate Scholarship, applicants are required to:

- Be assessed by one of our partner Universities to have met all conditions for admission to the HDR program including English language requirements for international students.
- Have research subject areas aligned with the objectives of the Blue Economy CRC's five Research Programs.
- Have for each PhD project the support of a Blue Economy CRC industry and/or government Participant for the project.
- All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements of the host University, and essential skills, experience or other requirements. Applications are invited from high-calibre, recent, or soon-to-be 1<sup>st</sup> class or high 2<sup>nd</sup> class Honours or Masters graduates or the equivalent, in related fields.
- Early career industry professionals interested in returning to higher degree studies (full-time or part-time) are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Not hold the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, or have submitted work to the university or any other institution in fulfilment of the requirements for a degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

### Supervision

- For stand-alone scholarships (as opposed to scholarships within a wider BE CRC General Project), the BE CRC-Co strongly encourages to have a minimum number of two (2) supervisors and a Research Advisor.
- The Principal Supervisor (or First Named Supervisor) will be an academic employed by a university that is a Blue Economy CRC Participant and who meets the supervisory requirements of the university.
- An academic Co-Supervisor from a non-Participant university will be considered if this offers advantages due to geographic proximity, or if this person offers the most appropriate skills and expertise for the research to be undertaken.
- The Research Advisor must be from a relevant Blue Economy CRC industry and/or government Participant. If this is not possible, a letter from an industry and/or government Participant should accompany the scholarship application in support of the project.
- Supervisors will be approved by the Blue Economy CRC-Co (BE CRC-Co) and the administering university.
- Conjoint arrangements with international partner Universities and/or research organisations can be considered.
- The Principal Supervisor will be considered the Project Leader in the BE CRC-Co and required to sign a Project Plan (a Schedule to the Project Agreement) that will cover the scholarship, risks, IP and PhD project research funds provided by the BE CRC-Co. Note, funds to support the PhD research, e.g. costs towards model build, instruments, lab equipment, specialised courses to undertake research etc. will be limited to \$15,000 per student.

### Candidature

- The enrolment status of the Blue Economy CRC Postgraduate Scholarship recipient will normally be full-time.
- Candidates wishing to enrol part-time will be approved on a case-by-case basis by approval by the BE CRC-Co and administering university.
- Students are required to conform to the administering university's policies (including disciplinary provisions, termination, leave entitlements).
- Scholarship holders may undertake part-time employment under the conditions of the administering university, but at any time this impacts the PhD student's progress, this should be ceased.
- By mutual agreement between the BE CRC-Co and the host university, a scholarship may be suspended for a defined period in order for a student to undertake an external work placement, provided that it is relevant to the objectives of the BE CRC-Co and aligns with the student's PhD research.
- Subject to the Blue Economy CRC publication procedures, students are required to present their work annually within forums at their University (or otherwise), at a relevant conference/seminar and at the Blue Economy CRC's workshops (by oral presentation and/or poster presentation).
- Students must participate in additional professional development opportunities and contribute to these as appropriate.

### Scholarship

The BE CRC-Co is encouraging opportunities for co-funding of PhD scholarships with research, industry and government organisations, to help foster a bigger cohort of PhD students, where there is mutual benefit on the proposed PhD project. To attract the best candidates the BE CRC-Co can offer PhD scholarship ‘top-ups’ to new and existing PhD students.

- The BE CRC-Co will provide scholarship award rates at the value of \$35,000 per annum (for full-time scholarships). This value has been set to exceed both the projected corresponding values for the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) rate, which are indexed annually, and the latest alternative stipend rates applied by Participant universities.
- Scholarship stipend payments will be administered through the university where the student is enrolled under the relevant project agreement.
- There will be three types of scholarship offered by the BE CRC-Co: (i) full scholarship, (ii) partial scholarship (50% or 25% where co-funding is provided by a Blue Economy CRC Participant university and/or research organisation or Third-Party) and (iii) a ‘top-up’ scholarship.
- A ‘top up’ scholarship shall provide funds to supplement a scholarship, providing up to \$10,000 per annum in additional. Top-ups will only be awarded to applicants that are **deemed to be outstanding candidates**.
- A top-up can be awarded in respect to a scholarship where the stipend is funded by the BE CRC, or by an external organisation.
- Funds from the BE CRC-Co to support ‘top-up’ scholarships is limited per annum.
- Top-ups and stipends cannot be used to fund tuition fees. Prospective students must have sufficient funding to pay university (international student) tuition fees or have a scholarship from their home country or the university to cover these.
- Students with an existing full scholarship awarded, but without a topic confirmed, can apply. These students will be expected to sign a written agreement (‘Deed Poll’) provided by Blue Economy CRC (see further, below) and will then be considered part of the Blue Economy CRC Scholars Program and have access to the same opportunities as other students in the Blue Economy CRC.

### Duration

- The duration of the full-time PhD scholarship will be for up to 3.5 years (42 months), including professional development and student placements.
- In the event that the PhD is fully completed in less than 42 months, the **host university is to return any unspent stipend funds to the Blue Economy CRC**.
- In exceptional circumstances a scholarship extension will be allowed beyond 42 months, on a case-by-case basis.

### Termination

The Blue Economy CRC Postgraduate Scholarship will terminate immediately if:

- the student:
  - Discontinues the research studies for which the scholarship was awarded;
  - Does not conform to the Blue Economy CRC Conditions of Award, having received 30 days’ notice of non-conformity from BE CRC-Co;
  - Does not conform to the relevant university Participant’s policies, having received 30 days’ notice of non-conformity from the university; or
  - Does not resume research study at the conclusion of a period of approved leave of absence or does not make arrangements for the approval of an extension to the period of leave of absence; or
- BE CRC-Co’s:
  - funding agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia for the grant of funds in respect of the Blue Economy CRC; or
  - project agreement with the relevant university and other Project Contributors in respect of which the student’s project forms part,

is terminated.

Termination will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

### Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

The BE CRC-Co. has legal obligations relating to confidentiality and IP requirements. These apply to all Participants and also extend to students engaged in research projects funded by BE CRC-Co. Accordingly, at the time of commencement of candidature, BE CRC-Co will require that the student enters into a written agreement with the Company (and the host university), called a PhD Deed Poll. The PhD Deed Poll sets out the terms on which the student is involved in the Activities, and is consistent with the principles in the, BE CRC-Co's Grant Agreement and Participants Agreement. In addition, all institutions and entities involved in the student's project, whether as enrolling institution or in connection with supervisors or Research Advisors, must be party to an approved form of project agreement relating to the student's project.

### Reporting Progress & Blue Economy CRC Evaluation

Principal Supervisors are required to provide the following to the BE CRC-Co.:

- Student and Supervisor reports completed as part of the formal candidature milestones required by the host university. This should include all of the following: (i) the six-month project plan submitted to their graduate research office; (ii) a copy of the student's Confirmation of Candidature report and outcome at the end of year one; and (iii) Annual Review reports (for subsequent years).

In addition, as requested at any time by BE CRC-Co., Principal Supervisors are required to provide:

- a summary of the progress made with reference to the stated aims of the project.
- Intellectual Property developed.
- linkages with Blue Economy CRC activities.
- identification of project-related issues (including any set-backs or shortcomings) or opportunities.
- summary of the progress made on research tasks and any difficulties preventing satisfactory progress.
- details of any student placements or internships undertaken.
- recommendation on scholarship continuation.
- a copy of the PhD thesis submitted for examination.
- a copy of the final PhD thesis.

The Research Director will present progress reports on the PhD Scholars program at every meeting of the BE CRC-Co. Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee.

### **Non-Scholarship provisions available to PhD Scholars**

#### Student Placement Program

The BE CRC-Co aims to provide opportunities and funding for postgraduate students to enrich their research experience with short-term placements in relevant organisations, including government, private and university organisations in Australia and overseas.

The BE CRC-Co views placements (or internships) as a critical element to the PhD candidature. This will help ensure candidates are work ready and are connected to potential employers. Placements are to be undertaken according to the following guidelines:

- Organisations that host a student do not need to be one of the Blue Economy CRC's Participant organisations, but must deliver an experience to the student which will enhance some aspect of their research or application of their research skills, or broaden the student's understanding of the blue economy.
- Student placements will be for a minimum of three months, to a maximum of six months. This can be a single placement, or split into two placements.
- Students will be required to make a formal application for a placement to BE CRC-Co. Please contact the BE CRC for a copy of the Student Placement Application Form.
- Limited funds will be available for travel to commence student placements; these will be issued through a separate process. Living costs are expected to be provided by the PhD student.
- It is the responsibility of the Supervisory team to work with the student to arrange the most appropriate placement, and Blue Economy CRC Research Director and/or Research Program Leaders are able to facilitate discussions with potential placement organisations.
- Students will provide the BE CRC-Co with a written report on return from a student placement and,

where suitable, give an oral presentation.

### Conference Travel Funding Support

The BE CRC-Co will provide funding to PhD students wishing to present their research at a domestic or international conference.

- Students can request for funding from the Blue Economy CRC to attend a maximum of two conferences, one domestic and one international conference, during their candidature.
- Conference travel funding will only be provided to students who are beyond their first year of candidature.
- Conference travel funding will be limited and will be issued through a merit process.
- Co-funding with the administering university will be considered favourably.
- Students will be required to make a formal application for funding assistance to BE CRC-Co. Please contact the BE CRC for a copy of the Conference Travel Funding Application Form.

### **Other Important Information for PhD Scholars**

#### Publications Approval

All Students engaged in BE CRC-Co research are required to seek approval for any Agreement Material used externally in publications, books, posters, mid project reports, final PhD thesis, articles, websites, media releases and presentations.

This is for the BE CRC-Co to:

- ensure high quality content;
- review any sensitive commercial confidential information;
- ensure that all project partners agree to dissemination of the output; and
- ensure appropriate acknowledgement of the Blue Economy CRC.

Any publication **MUST** acknowledge the support of the BE CRC-Co, with the following text (as may be updated by the BE CRC-Co or the Commonwealth of Australia from time to time by notice):

" The authors acknowledge the financial support of the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), established and supported under the Australian Government's CRC Program, grant number CRC-20180101. The CRC Program supports industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers and the community."

Suggested additional text, subject to the relevant Project Agreement and any direction received by a Project Contributor:

"The authors would also like to acknowledge [name the Project Contributors]."

Students and Primary Supervisors must follow these steps:

- Student **MUST** provide a copy of the publication to their Primary Supervisor 30 days before it is to be submitted/presented.
- Your Primary Supervisor will be required to provide the Request to Publish Form for review by BE CRC-Co, committee chairs and Project Contributors in accordance with the relevant project agreement.
- Primary Supervisors must allow 30 days for all responses to the Request to Publish Form and follow the procedures in the relevant project agreement in respect of such responses.
- The Request to Publish Form can be found on *Connect*.

### **DOCUMENT CONTROL**

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